

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hat assembly including a hat that is selectively disposed in either a collapsed position or an expanded position, said hat assembly comprising:

a carrying member formed in a selected shape of an article and having a pair of spaced, substantially planar outer layers each having an outer periphery defining an elongated, flexible fastening member extending substantially along the entire length thereof, said carrying member being structured for storing between said outer layers a hat in a collapsed position, said fastening member being formed to have a closed position and an open position wherein said fastening member when in said closed position joins said outer layers to store said hat in said collapsed position and when in open position enables a stored collapsed hat to be removed therefrom and expanded into an expanded position; and wherein said hat comprises

a head engaging portion including a side wall and a crown secured to an outer end of said side wall, said crown being operatively connected to an inner surface of one of said outer layers; and

a brim having a substantially annular configuration at least partially defined by a central opening and an outer periphery having a continuous, substantially circular configuration;

said side wall having an inner end being of substantially equal dimension as a circumference of said central opening, said inner end being secured continuously to said circumference along mutual lengths thereof;

said expanded position of said hat being defined by said crown of said hat being oriented in a planar configuration and wherein said brim assumes a substantially planar configuration oriented substantially coplanar to said crown and wherein that portion of said crown being operatively connected to said inner surface of one of said outer layers is folded so as to be located interior to said side wall; and

said collapsed position of said hat being defined by that portion of said crown being operatively connected to said inner surface of one of said outer layers being positioned exterior to said side wall and oriented with said brim and head engaging portion being disposed in folded over relation to one another about and between said outer layers.

2. The hat assembly of claim 1 further comprising

at least one attachment member operatively connect to and extendable outwardly from said carrying member for carrying said hat assembly when said hat is disposed within said carrying member and said fastening member is in its closed position.

3. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein said brim is disposed and structured to exert a radially directed tensioning force thereon when said hat is in said expanded position.

4. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein the carrying member and hat are formed of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

5. The hat assembly of claim 4 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material having at least 50% cotton fiber content.

6. The hat assembly of claim 4 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material comprising a blend of cotton fiber material and material made from man-made fibers wherein the textile material has in the order of at least 50% cotton fiber content to maintain breathability of the textile material.

7. The hat assembly of claim 6 wherein said man-made fibers are made from at least one of acrylic, polypropylene and polyester.

8. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein said carrying member and said hat are formed of the same material and the hat includes breathing holes.

9. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein said carrying member is formed of a first material and said hat is formed of a second different material.

10. The hat assembly of claim 9 wherein said first material is formed of a water resistant material and said second material is formed of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

11. The hat assembly of 9 wherein said first material is polyvinylchloride.

12. The hat assembly of claim 9 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material having at least 50% cotton fiber content.

13. The hat assembly of claim 9 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable material is formed of textile material comprising a blend of cotton fiber textile material and said material made from man-made fibers wherein the textile material has in the order of at least 50% cotton fiber content to maintain breathability of the textile material.

14. The hat assembly of claim 13 wherein said man-made fibers are made from at least one of acrylic, polypropylene and polyester.

15. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein said fastening member is a zipper.

16. The hat assembly of claim 1 wherein said fastening member includes a first fastening member and a cooperating second fastening member.

17. The hat assembly of claim 16 wherein said first fastening member and said second fastening member are mating elements defining a hook and loop fastener.

18. The hat assembly bag of claim 1 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a round ball.

19. The hat assembly bag of claim 1 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a basketball.

20. The hat assembly bag of claim 1 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a baseball.

21. The hat assembly bag of claim 1 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a soccer ball.

22. The hat assembly bag of claim 11 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a football.

23. The hat assembly bag of claim 16 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a car wheel and tire assembly.

24. A hat assembly including a hat that is selectively disposed in either a collapsed position or an expanded position, said hat assembly comprising

a hat, said hat comprising

a head engaging portion including a side wall and a crown;

a brim having a substantially annular configuration at least partially defined by a central opening and an outer periphery having a continuous, substantially circular configuration;

said side wall having an inner end being of substantially equal dimension as a circumference of said central opening; said inner end being secured continuously to said circumference along mutual lengths thereof;

said expanded position of said hat being defined by said crown of said hat being oriented in a planar configuration and wherein said brim assumes a substantially planar configuration oriented substantially coplanar to said crown and wherein a portion of said crown is structured so as to be folded and located interior to said side wall;

said collapsed position of said hat being defined by that portion of said crown structured to be folded interior of said side wall being positioned exterior to said side wall and oriented with said brim and head engaging portion being disposed in folded over relation to one another; and

a carrying member formed into a selected shape and having a pair of spaced, substantially planar outer layers each having an outer periphery defining an elongated, flexible fastening member extending substantially along the entire length of each of said outer layers, one of said outer layers having an inner surface operatively connected to a portion of the crown at a selected

location, said carrying member being structured for storing between said outer layers a hat in said collapsed position, said fastening member being formed to have a closed position and an opened position wherein said fastening member when in said closed position joins said outer layers to store said hat in said collapsed position and when in open position enables a stored collapsed hat to be removed therefrom and expanded into an expanded position.

25. The hat assembly of claim 24 further comprising at least one attachment member operatively connect to and extendable outwardly from said carrying member for carrying said hat assembly when said hat is disposed within said carrying member and said fastening member is in its closed position.

26. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said brim is disposed and structured to exert a radially directed tensioning force thereon when said hat is in said expanded position.

27. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein the carrying member and hat are formed of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

28. The hat assembly of claim 27 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material having at least 50% cotton fiber content.

29. The hat assembly of claim 27 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material comprising a blend of cotton fiber material and material made

from man-made fibers wherein the textile material has in the order of at least 50% cotton fiber content to maintain breathability of the textile material.

30. The hat assembly of claim 29 wherein said man-made fibers are made from at least one of acrylic, polypropylene and polyester.

31. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said carrying member is formed of a first material and said hat is formed of a second different material.

32. The hat assembly of claim 31 wherein said first material is formed of a water resistant material and said second material is formed of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

33. The hat assembly of 31 wherein said first material is polyvinylchloride.

34. The hat assembly of claim 31 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material having at least 50% cotton fiber content.

35. The hat assembly of claim 31 wherein said breathable, soft, pliable textile material is formed of textile material comprising a blend of cotton fiber material and material made from man-made fibers wherein the textile material is in the order of at least 50% cotton fiber content to maintain breathability of the textile material.



36. The hat assembly of claim 35 wherein said man-made fibers are made from at least one of acrylic, polypropylene and polyester.

37. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said carrying member fastening member when in its open position includes an opening dimensioned and configured to allow passage therethrough of said hat in said collapsed position.

38. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said fastening member is a zipper.

39. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said fastening member includes a first fastening member and a cooperating second fastening member.

40. The hat assembly of claim 39 wherein said first fastening member and said second fastening member are mating elements defining a hook and loop fastener.

41. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a round ball.

42. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a basketball.

43. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the baseball. carrying member is in the shape of a

44. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a soccer ball.

45. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a football.

46. The hat assembly bag of claim 24 wherein the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member is in the shape of a car wheel and tire assembly.

47. The hat assembly of claim 24 wherein said side wall of the hat includes breathing holes.

48. A method of selectively disposing a hat in a hat assembly in either a collapsed position or an expanded position, comprising the steps of:

forming a hat comprising a head engaging portion including a side wall and a crown, a brim having a substantially annular configuration at least partially defined by a central opening and an outer periphery having a continuous, substantially circular configuration wherein said side wall have an inner end being of substantially equal dimension as a circumference of said central opening; said inner end being secured continuously to said circumference along mutual lengths thereof;

forming a carrying member having a selected shape and having a pair of spaced, substantially planar outer layers each having an outer periphery defining an elongated, flexible fastening

member extending substantially along the entire length of each of said outer layers wherein one of said outer layers have an inner surface operatively connected to a portion of the crown at a selected location and said carrying member is structured for storing between said outer layers a hat in said collapsed position, said fastening member being formed to have a closed position and an opened position wherein said fastening member when in said closed position joins said outer layers to store said hat in said collapsed position and when in open position enables a stored collapsed hat to be removed therefrom and expanded into an expanded position; and .

at least one of folding and unfolding said hat between an expanded position wherein said expanded position of said hat is defined by said crown of said hat being oriented in a planar configuration and wherein said brim assumes a substantially planar configuration oriented substantially coplanar to said crown and wherein a portion of said crown is structured so as to be folded and located interior to said side wall and collapsed position wherein said collapsed position of said hat is defined by that portion of said crown structured to be folded interior of said side wall being positioned exterior to said side wall and oriented with said brim and head engaging portion being disposed in folded over relation to one another.

49. The method of claim 48 further comprising the step of: attaching to the fastening member at least one attachment member extendable outwardly from said fastening member and being structured for carrying said hat assembly when said hat is disposed within said carrying member and said fastening member is in its closed position.

50. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a hat further comprises forming the hat of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

51. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the carrying member of a breathable, soft, pliable textile material.

52. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of a round ball.

53. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of basketball.

54. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of a baseball.

55. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of a soccer ball.

56. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of football.

57. The method of claim 48 wherein the step of forming a carrying member further comprises forming the selected shape of the article defined by the carrying member in the shape of car wheel and tire assembly.

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